



NEW HAVEN URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
Year ended
31st DECEMBER, 1938.

NEW HAVEN,
12th June, 1939.

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended December 31st 1938.

To the Members of the
Newhaven Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

During the year 1938, the general health of the District was good, a notable feature of the year being the freedom from serious infectious disease.

Excluding Tuberculosis, of which only 4 cases were notified, there were only 20 cases of Infectious Disease during the year, of which 12 were Pneumonia.

There was a death from Diphtheria, giving a Zymetic Death Rate of .14

The Crude Death Rate was 11.89 as compared with 10.3 in 1937. The comparability factor of .92 gives an adjusted Death Rate of 10.9

The Senile Mortality was 60.7 as compared with 52.8 in 1937.

The chief causes of death were as follows:
Heart Disease 27, Cancer 13, Cerebral Haemorrhage 12, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Suicide 4, Diabetes 3 and Influenza 2.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .56 as compared with .4 in 1937.

The Birth Rate was 15 as compared with 15.1 in 1937.

There were 3 illegitimate births.

There were no deaths of Infants under one year of age. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of Nil as compared with 66 in 1937. This is a very satisfactory feature of the year.

Six cases of Infectious Disease were treated at the Isolation Hospital. There was one death from Diphtheria. The remaining cases made a good recovery.

Social Conditions of the District.

The chief Industries in the District are as follows:

Southern Railway Company.
Dock and Harbour Works.
Building Trade.
Valentine Pen Factory.

A good many workers are also employed at the Alpha Cement Works situated a short distance outside the District. There is no serious unemployment in the District as there is a considerable amount of casual employment in the dock and building trade.

In my opinion, the present disposal of sewage is not satisfactory and the new scheme should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

In August a portion of Chapel Street was condemned as a Slum Clearance Area but, so far, no action has been taken in the matter.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their unfailing courtesy and also to the Officials for the ready aid given to me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RODIE PARKHURST.

Newhaven,
June 12th, 1939.

1.

Area	1766 Acres.
Population Census 1931	7383
" Estimated	7062
Number of Inhabited Houses	2070
Number of families or Separate Occupiers	2138
Rateable Value	£45,958
Sum produced by a penny rate	£174.1.3

2.

Births - Legitimate M - 58 F - 45) Total 106
 Illegitimate M - 2 F - 1)

Still Births M - 2 F - 2 Total 4. All legitimate.
= 37.7 per 1,000 Births

Death of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births - Nil.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population = 11.89 Adjusted Rate
10.9

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of childbirth - Nil.
Deaths from Zymotic Disease - 1

3.

During the year 1938, there were 20 cases of notifiable disease, excluding Tuberculosis, as against 18 in 1937. They are as follows: Pneumonia 12, Scarlet Fever 2, Erysipelas 2, Diphtheria 1, Puerperal Pyrexia 1, Anterior Poliomyelitis 1, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

There were 3 deaths from Pneumonia, 4 from Tuberculosis and 1 from Diphtheria.

Table of Certain Infectious Diseases Notified During the
Past Ten Years.

[illegible]

Table of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year 1938,
and deaths therefrom.

Age Periods	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15		1						
25		1			1			
35	1							
45					1			
55	1				2			
65 & over								
Totals	2	2	-	-	4	-	-	-

Table of Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during the year 1937. with age periods.

Ages Years	Diphth.	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia.	Puerp. Pyrexia	Ery- sipelas	Anterior Poloimyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0-1							1
1-5			4			1	
5-15	1	1	1				
15-25		1	1	1			
25-35							
35-45			1				
45-55			3				
55-65			1		1		
65-			1		1		
Totals	1	2	12	1	2	1	1

4. Causes of Sickness.

There were no particular causes of sickness during the year 1938, and the District was free from anything in the nature of an epidemic. The total number of Infectious Diseases notified was 20 as compared with 18 in 1937. Of these 12 were Pneumonia; there were only two cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria. The case of Diphtheria was a very severe one necessitating tracheotomy and proved fatal owing to pneumonia supervening.

The crude Death Rate was 11.89 as compared with 10.3 in 1937 and the adjusted Death Rate was 10.9 as compared with 9.47 in 1937. The Senile Mortality was 60.7 as compared with 52.8 in 1937. The Infantile Mortality was Nil as compared with 66 in 1937. The Birth Rate was 15 as compared with 15.1 in 1937.

The chief causes of death were as follows:
Heart Disease 27, Cancer 13, Cerebral Haemorrhage 12, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Suicide 4, Diabetes 3 and Influenza 2.

On the whole, the health of the District was very satisfactory during the year 1938. The Birth Rate was the same as in 1937. The Death Rate shows a slight rise, but the Senile Mortality was high, 50 per cent of the deaths being of persons over 70 years of age. It is gratifying to find an Infant Mortality of nil.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available for the District.

The Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association supply two Queens Nurses and one Health Visitor. One Queen's Nurse carries out the general nursing of the Urban District and part of the Rural District and is also Midwife for such part of the Rural District. The other Queen's Nurse is Midwife for the Town and gives relief duty to the other Nurses when needed. The Health Visitor carries out the health visiting in the Urban District and parts of the Rural District. The Nursing is provided by the Local Authority, assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; weekly meetings are held where mothers can attend with their infants for instruction in their upbringing. This centre is carried on by the Health Visitor assisted by the Town Midwife.

Clinics. The Health Visitor attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinic, held at the Schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities. A horse-drawn and a Motor Ambulance are provided by the Council for the conveyance of Infectious Diseases to the Isolation Hospital, and an up-to-date Motor Ambulance is provided by the Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. This ambulance is available for use in the Urban District and the surrounding Districts.

Hospitals. There is no hospital in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of cases of infectious disease occurring in the town and Port; this Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be received from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full.

The Smallpox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Hospital, situated at Chailey, to which the Newhaven Urban District Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity nor Children's Hospital in the District, nor any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children.

Isolation Hospital.

This Hospital is in a very satisfactory condition. During the year 1938, six cases were under treatment there, namely: Diphtheria, 1, Scarlet Fever 2, Measles 2 and 1 suspected Diphtheria. The Diphtheria case proved fatal and the other cases made a good recovery.

6. Laboratory Work.

No bacteriological or pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with the South London Hospital for the examination of all specimens, the charge for which is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. All Medical Practitioners in the District are supplied with Diphtheria Antitoxin free of cost.

7. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

List of Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts i,ii,iii.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907-
Parts iv,vi, ix and x.
Sections 15-22 inclusive and 28, and 31,32 and 33.
of Part 2, and Section 81 of Part 7.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Water Supply.

The District has two sources of Water Supply
1. From the Newhaven & Seaford Water Co. which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.
2. From the Southern Railway Company's well at Denton.
Both these water supplies are of good quality and sufficient in quantity. They have been analysed on several occasions and found satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the District are provided with water closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:

Premises with Cesspools.

West Pier	3
Cemetery	1
Court Farm Cottages	3
Harbour Heights Estate.....	46
Added Area	185

Premises with Earth Closets.

Meeching Court Farm	6
New Road	17
West Pier	24
Golf House	1
Fort Glacis	3
Bungalow, Church Hill	1
East Side Beach Huts	42
Denton Village	32

Scavenging.

The method of disposal of house refuse now in force is that suggested by the Ministry of Health, whereby refuse is buried daily under the soil. This system works very satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of the District and the Work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1938.

The following is the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1938.

1. In connection with Infectious Disease	8
2. Various	18
Total	<u>26</u>

Abstract from the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out a regular inspection of the District and I subjoin extract from his Report. The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 1938, he has made 711 visits in connection with his work. In respect of these visits, 58 informal and 2 formal notices were served. Seventy-five complaints were received during the year, all of which were dealt with and the conditions remedied. I append a table of the number and nature of the inspections carried out during the year 1938:

Dwelling House Inspections	238
Visits in connection with nuisances	66
Common Lodging House Inspections	6
Slaughter House Visits	255
Visits in connection with Offensive Trade	10
Bakehouse Inspections	18
Cowshed Inspections	30
Factory and Workshop Inspections	22
Rat Investigations	66
	<u>711</u>

Summary of Work Executed After Service of Notice.

Water Closets Repaired	17
Cesspools Repaired	6
Drains cleared or repaired	19
Accumulations of Refuse removed	7
Cooking Ranges repaired	6
Food Premises cleansed	6
Rooms of Dwelling Houses cleansed	15
Dustbins provided	6
Yards Paved	1
Floors repaired	6
Windows repaired	2
Dampness remedied	6
Food Stores provided	1
Staircases repaired	2
Coppers repaired	2
Sinks provided	1
Roofs repaired	7
Ditches cleaned	2
Total	<u>112</u>

Shops and Offices.

All shops and offices are regularly inspected and their condition found to be satisfactory.

Camping Sites.

- (1) Number of sites used in the area 2
- (2) Number in respect of which licenses have been issued 2
- (3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time100

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- (1) Number of Houses Infested - Council Houses 4
Other houses 3
All these houses were disinfected..
- (2) Method Employed: Lawes Disinfestation Block.
- (3) All furniture and effects of infested premises were disinfested.
- (4) All tenants supervised and instructed by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory and the water supply is good and adequate. There is a need for the provision of a new school building in the district, as, since the admission of scholars from Peacehaven, it has been necessary in the Boys's School to hold two classes in one room which is not a satisfactory condition of affairs.

All cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever are removed to the Isolation Hospital and contacts excluded for the prescribed periods. Notices of non-notifiable diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the head teachers, so that any steps which may be considered advisable may be taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

1. Lodging Houses.

There is only one Lodging House in the District. This

is licensed for the reception of 43 people. A regular inspection of the premises is carried out.

2. Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 7 Cowsheds in the District and 20 Registered Retailers and 2 Wholesale Traders for the sale of milk.

Regular inspections of the premises are carried out, and their general condition has been found satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 30 visits to the cowsheds and given five informal notices.

3. Slaughter Houses.

There are 3 Slaughter houses in the District, all of which are registered.

Their general condition is clean but their structural condition cannot be considered satisfactory. The District is in need of a Public Station which would facilitate the inspection of meat at the time of slaughtering. During the year 1938 about 538 animals were slaughtered. I append a list of carcasses inspected and condemned.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- posed Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	35	86	21	129	267
Number Inspected	31	68	20	102	234
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	6	1	-	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.5%	8.8%	5%	0%	7.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	20	-	-	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.9%	38.3%	0%	0%	6.9%

Food.

A. Milk Supply.

The premises from which and the conditions under which milk is retailed in the District receive special attention from the Authority. Eight samples for bacterial examination were taken, three of which were unsatisfactory. Nine samples were tested for tubercle, all of which proved negative.

B. Other Foods.

All premises where food is prepared for sale are regularly inspected and their condition has been found satisfactory; eighteen visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and four informal notices given. There are six bakehouses in the District, none of which are underground.

During the year 1938 the following articles of food were condemned and destroyed:

Diseased Meat.

Bovines.

5	Livers	Distomatosis
2	Livers	Angioma
3	Livers	Tuberculosis
10	Mesenteries	Tuberculosis
10 prs	Lungs	Tuberculosis
1 pr.	Lungs	Pneumonia
9	Heads & Tongues	Tuberculosis
1	Tongue	Actinomycosis
7	Entire Carcases & Organs	Tuberculosis

Swine.

2	Livers	Hepatitis
5	Mesenteries	Tuberculosis
9 prs	Lungs	Fleurisy
2 prs	Lungs	Pneumonia
11	Hearts	Pericarditis
7	Heads & Collars	Tuberculosis
2	Entire Carcases & Organs	- Tuberculosis
2	"	- Septicaemia.

The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part time, and a Sanitary Inspector full time. The Staff of the Isolation Hospital comprises a Matron, an Assistant Nurse, a Probationer Nurse, a Cook and a Caretaker. The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent.

Vaccination.

This is almost non existent in this District. During the year 1938 the total number of primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age was only 12.

Disinfection.

Premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred are disinfected with formalin. In cases of Cancer and Tuberculosis, disinfection is generally carried out on the death or removal of the patient. Infected bedding and clothing are treated in the steam disinfecter at the Isolation Hospital.

Housing.

The housing condition of the District is generally satisfactory. Forty new houses were erected during the year 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1938:-

(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b)	40
(1) by the Local Authority	9
(2) by other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) by other bodies or persons	31
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-	
(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	159
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	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	238
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	48
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	59
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	69
2.	<u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notice.</u>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	36
3.	<u>Actions under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
A;	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room have been rendered fit	Nil
4.	<u>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding.</u>	
	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	Number of families dwelling therein	6
	Number of persons dwelling therein	36
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
	(c) 1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	11
	2 Number of persons concerned in such cases	76½
	(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

(c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.
Further cases of overcrowding are being relieved by the erection of new Council Houses.
Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year 1938.

I append a table of general Statistics for the past ten years.

Year	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Population estimated to middle of year.	7062	6989	7060	6989	6936	6481	6494	6397	6390	6366
Birth rate per 1000 of the population	15	15.1	12.6	13.7	14.7	14.15	13.3	15.15	16.9	16.9
Death Rate of Infants under 1 yr per 1000 Births	-	66	22.5	10.4	20.0	43.5	35	57.5	55.5	74
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population	11.29	10.3	11.7	12.4	11.5	15	10.6	16.5	13	13.6
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 of the population	10.9	9.47	10.76							
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000	0.14	0.14	0.28	0.14	0	0	0.15	0	0.15	0
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000	.56	.4	.4	.7	.43	.77	.44	1.5	1.1	.78
Death Rate from other Respiratory Diseases per 1000	.4	.7	.8	1.6	1.4	1.6	.8	1.5	2.7	2.0
Senile Mortality Deaths at 65 & over as percentage of total deaths.	60.7	52.8	61.7	48.0	45.0	62.8	60.0	50.0	43.4	52.5

Factories and Workshops.

The Medical Officer of Health is requested to report on the condition of Factories and Workshops under the Factory and Workshops Act, in so far as it concerns his department and to forward a copy to the Secretary of State.

The Factories and Workshops in the District have been regularly inspected and found generally to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

RODIE PARKHURST.

Medical Officer of Health.

June 12th, 1939.

